

CLAIM AMENDMENTS PURSUANT § 1.121(c)

Applicants respectfully request amendment of Claims 1 and 34, as provided below. In addition, Applicants respectfully request the addition of new Claims 35-44.

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A reinforcement rod for optical cables comprising:
a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:
a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV cured vinyl ester resin material; and,
an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said outer topcoat layer ~~comprised of at least a non-radiation-curable, including a~~ thermoplastic hot melt polybutylene terephthalate copolymer resin to impart specific bonding characteristics to said rod.
2. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an E glass fiber member.
3. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members comprises an S glass fiber member.
4. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E glass fiber members, an S glass fiber members, and combinations thereof.
5. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said elongated fiber members are selected from the group consisting of E glass fiber members, S glass fiber members, high strength synthetic strands of poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) fiber members, and combinations thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said UV cured vinyl ester resin material is selected from the group consisting of novolac vinyl ester and 1, 6 hexane diol diacrylate copolymer material (VINCH 500), and novolac vinyl ester and dipropylene glycol diacrylate copolymer material (17-41B).

7-22. Canceled

23. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

a plurality of E glass roving fibers; and
a plurality of S glass roving fibers.

24. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength synthetic strand members.

25. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 23, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

26. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 24, wherein said plurality of fibers further comprises a plurality of polyphenylene terephthalate strand members.

27. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

a plurality of E glass roving fibers;
a plurality of S glass roving fibers; and
a plurality of high strength aramid strands.

28. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said plurality of fibers comprises:

- a plurality of E glass roving fibers;
- a plurality of S glass roving fibers; and
- a plurality of high strength polyphenylene terephthalate strands.

29-30. Canceled.

31. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, wherein said outer topcoat layer includes a polybutylene terephthalate and polyether glycol copolymer topcoat layer.

32. Canceled.

33. (Previously presented) The reinforcement rod of claim 1, further comprising an upjacket substantially surrounding said compact fiber reinforced rod.

34. (Previously presented) A reinforcement rod for optical cables comprising:

- a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:

- a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV cured vinyl ester resin material; and

- an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said outer topcoat layer ~~comprised of at least a non-radiation-curable, including a~~ thermoplastic hot melt ethylene acrylic acid copolymer resin to impart specific bonding characteristics to said rod.

35. (New) A reinforcement rod for optical cables comprising:
a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:
a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV
cured vinyl ester resin material; and
an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said
outer topcoat layer including a thermoplastic hot melt polybutylene terephthalate and
polyether glycol copolymer resin to impart specific bonding characteristics to said rod.

36. (New) A reinforcement rod for optical cables comprising:
a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:
a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV
cured vinyl ester resin material; and
an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said
outer topcoat layer consisting essentially of a thermoplastic hot melt polybutylene
terephthalate copolymer resin to impart specific bonding characteristics to said rod.

37. (New) A reinforcement rod for optical cables comprising:
a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:
a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV
cured vinyl ester resin material; and
an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said
outer topcoat layer consisting essentially of a thermoplastic hot melt ethylene acrylic acid
copolymer resin to impart specific bonding characteristics to said rod.

38. (New) A reinforcement rod for optical cables comprising:
a compact fiber reinforced rod comprising:
a plurality of elongated fiber members encased in a matrix of a UV
cured vinyl ester resin material; and,
an outer topcoat layer substantially surrounding said matrix, said
outer topcoat layer consisting essentially of a thermoplastic hot melt polybutylene
terephthalate and polyether glycol copolymer resin to impart specific bonding
characteristics to said rod.

39. (New) The reinforcement rod of Claim 1 wherein said compact fiber reinforced
rod includes an upjacket substantially surrounding said outer topcoat layer.

40. (New) The reinforcement rod of Claim 34 wherein said compact fiber reinforced
rod includes an upjacket substantially surrounding said outer topcoat layer.

41. (New) The reinforcement rod of Claim 35 wherein said compact fiber reinforced
rod includes an upjacket substantially surrounding said outer topcoat layer.

42. (New) The reinforcement rod of Claim 36 wherein said compact fiber reinforced
rod includes an upjacket substantially surrounding said outer topcoat layer.

43. (New) The reinforcement rod of Claim 37 wherein said compact fiber reinforced
rod includes an upjacket substantially surrounding said outer topcoat layer.

44. (New) The reinforcement rod of Claim 38 wherein said compact fiber reinforced rod includes an upjacket substantially surrounding said outer topcoat layer.